



January 30, 2007

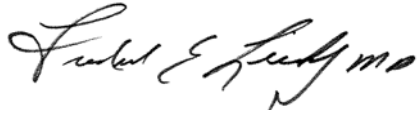
On behalf of the Indiana Joint Asthma Coalition (InJAC), I am pleased to bring to your attention two resolutions the Coalition recently adopted. InJAC is a coalition of public and private organizations, agencies, and individuals from academia, health care professionals, community groups and others that has come together to reduce the asthma burden to Indiana's citizens. Asthma is one of the most common chronic diseases in Indiana, affecting many Hoosier adults and children. InJAC members are working with the Indiana State Department of Health to help implement Indiana's Asthma Plan, which was adopted in 2004.

In Resolution 2006-1, INJAC expresses its support for smoke-free environments. The health effects of tobacco use, which includes secondhand smoke, are the leading causes of death and disease in the United States and in Indiana. Adults, pregnant women and the fetus, and children all are at risk when they are exposed to tobacco smoke at home or work, attend school, and visit public places that allow smoking. Indiana bears a greater burden from exposure to tobacco smoke than other states - Indiana ranks 2nd in the number of adults who smoke, 8th in adult deaths that are attributable to smoking, and Indiana has one of the highest smoking rates among women and pregnant women. The costs of smoking are enormous and reducing or eliminating smoking will help lower health care costs and help Hoosiers economically. Studies have shown that policies to reduce smoking are effective, and smoke-free laws are either economically neutral or have a positive economic impact. INJAC urges schools and businesses to consider prohibiting the use of tobacco, and INJAC urges local communities to consider adoption of smoke-free ordinances. We are available to assist these efforts.

In Resolution 2006-2, INJAC expresses its support for the adoption of vehicle Idle Free Zones and Idle Reduction policies. In Indiana, approximately half of the air pollution comes from cars, trucks and busses. Air pollution, particularly gasoline and diesel exhaust, is a significant asthma trigger. Additionally, it can have other adverse health effects on children, the elderly and people with respiratory illnesses. Limiting the amount of time vehicles idle is a very easy way to reduce air pollution in our communities. Idling wastes fuel (a non-renewable resource). Public agencies, business and the public can all save money and improve air quality and health by reducing the amount of time they idle.

Both resolutions are available at www.in.gov/isdh/programs/asthma/ijac_mission.htm. We encourage you to view the resolutions and take action to support smoke-free environments, idle free zones, and idle reduction policies. INJAC would be pleased to provide more information about the resolutions and its other asthma-related issues and activities. INJAC members are also available to speak to groups about these issues. More information is available at www.in.gov/isdh/programs/asthma/ijac_mission.htm.

Most Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frederick E. Leickly M.D.", written in a cursive style.

Frederick E. Leickly M.D.
Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children
Indiana University School of Medicine

Enclosures

1. RESOLUTION 2006-1 SUPPORTING SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENTS
2. RESOLUTION 2006-2 SUPPORTING REDUCTIONS IN VEHICLE IDLING